

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. *(Original)* A crystalline venlafaxine base wherein the venlafaxine base is in the form of white crystals.

2. *(Presently Amended)* The [A] crystalline venlafaxine base according to claim 1, wherein the venlafaxine base has a purity of greater than about 99.3%.

3. – 94. *(Withdrawn)*

95. *(New)* White crystalline solid venlafaxine base prepared by a method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a solution of venlafaxine hydrochloride in water,
- b) combining the solution of venlafaxine hydrochloride with sodium hydroxide,
- c) extracting the combination with an organic solvent to obtain extract,
- d) drying the extract,
- e) evaporating the extract to obtain a residue,
- f) combining the residue with an alkane, and
- g) crystallizing venlafaxine base that is a white crystalline solid from the combination of residue and alkane.

96. The white crystalline solid venlafaxine base of claim 95 wherein the organic solvent of step c) is selected from ethyl acetate, heptane, hexane, and mixtures of any of them.

97. The white crystalline solid venlafaxine base of claim 95 having a purity of at least about 98% by weight.

98. The white crystalline solid venlafaxine base of claim 97 having a purity of at least about 99% by weight.